



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application: Tianqing He et al.

Filing Date: 11/15/03

Examiner: Jiping Lu

Serial No: 10/714,471

Art Unit: 3749

Invention: DEVICE AND METHODS FOR RAPID DRYING OF POROUS MATERIALS

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is written in response to a final Office Action dated June 17, 2005. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.114 Applicant submits the following arguments:

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102

Examiner continues a rejection of Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wennerstrum, #4,882,851. The Examiner reasons that Wennerstrum has a pump (40) for creating a vacuum concluding that the: "Pump (40) of Wennerstrum et al. may evacuate air from the sealable chamber (10) until air pressure in the sealable chamber is less than 10 TORR." Applicant respectfully traverses this conclusion of the Examiner and requests a portion of the Wennerstrum reference where Wennerstrum teaches that the pump "may" evacuate air from the sealable chamber until air pressure in the sealable chamber is less than 10 TORR. In fact, Wennerstrum teaches away from the vacuum level of less than 10 TORR, as claimed and taught by the current Applicant, by showing that the desirable range inside the vacuum chamber is between 10 and 35 TORR (Wennerstrum column 13, line 23). Applicant readily concedes there are many vacuum pumps which may reduce the vacuum to a level below 10 TORR. However, nothing in the Wennerstrum disclosure suggests that such a pump is used in Wennerstrum. Moreover, insofar as Wennerstrum teaches controlling the vacuum in the chamber, it does so stating that the